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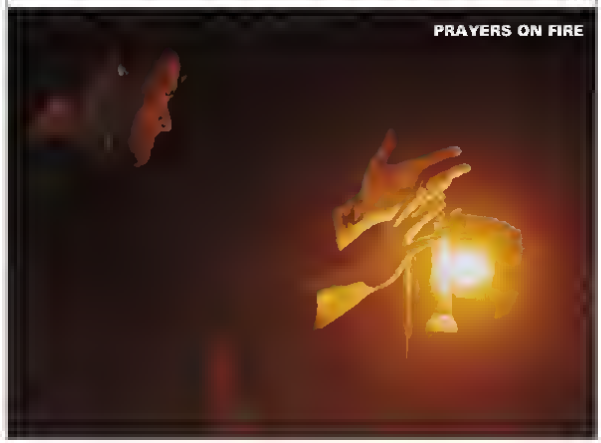

ISAAC LARIOS

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Illustrated by Winston Elliott
Photos courtesy of Wahoo's Fish Taco
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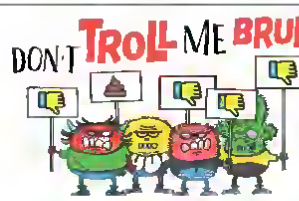

"Everything right of Stalin is considered fascist by these antifa nazis."
—Ash Williams, commenting on Savannah Munoz's "Fashys Try to Posterize Orange and Anaheim, Get Foiled by Rain and Antifa"

Our response: Well, Patriot Front is actually fascist, so Uncle Joe says, "*Gulag* to you!"

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Gotcha!

FBI wrecks 100-pound meth deal at Huntington Beach resort

A revolver-toting Rami Haddad met an acquaintance at the Kimpton Shorebreak Huntington Beach Resort on Feb 4 and hoped to sell 100 pounds of methamphetamine, but the person turned out to be an FBI confidential informant (CI), according to a grand jury indictment.

Federal officials now allege Haddad, Steven Barragan Jr. and Ernest Tyrone Walton Jr. conspired to distribute the controlled substance

»R. SCOTT MOXLEY

Haddad, a Costa Mesa resident, faces an additional charge of being armed with a handgun—a Rock Island Armory Model No. 206—while conducting illegal narcotics trafficking.

According to the FBI, the CI followed Haddad's late January demand to pay $1,500 per pound, as well as his instruction to supply $5,000 for a driver who would transport the meth across the Mexico-U.S. border at Tijuana. Agents allege that Haddad and Barragan met to discuss how to dilute the meth with a cutting agent that would boost the weight (and, thus, profitability) of the drugs.

Before the rendezvous at the Kimpton, Haddad helped to put a box containing 94 pounds of meth divided among heat-sealed plastic baggies into the trunk of Walton's white Toyota Camry before it was driven to the stylish hotel's parking garage off Pacific Coast Highway, according to the FBI. (No word yet on the destination of the missing 6 pounds.)

Later, court records assert, Barragan arrived at Haddad's residence to take control of part or all of the $135,000 collected from the CI.

A federal grand jury issued a Feb. 19 indictment against Haddad, who was born in 1979; Barragan (1981); and Walton (1982).

The case began inside Orange County's Ronald Reagan Federal Courthouse in tight secrecy with U.S. Magistrate Judge John D. Early granting a defense request to seal not only the FBI affidavit outlining the CI operation, but also an audio recording of the first court hearing.

Officials have scheduled a March 11 session to push the case forward.

ASIAN IMMIGRANTS NABBED AT OC BEACH

Fourteen foreign nationals, most from Asia, made it about 80 nautical miles from Mexico into the U.S. on Jan. 28 before landing their boat on an Orange County beach inside the Seal Beach Naval Weapons Station, running across Pacific Coast Highway and attempting to hide near Huntington Harbor.

After the military base's security witnessed the breach and notified the Huntington Beach Police Department and its counterpart in Seal Beach, officers found and arrested 11 Asian males, an Asian female and two Latinos—none of whom had government permission to enter this country.

Local officials turned the immigrants over to the U.S. Customs and Border Protection agents, who transported them to the San Clemente Border Patrol Station for processing.

In court, a federal agent with the California Border Enforcement Security Task Force ("LA-BEST") filed paperwork against three of the people apprehended. Julio Cesar Murillo-Arce (conspiring to bring "illegal aliens" to the U.S.; Jingfong Lin (illegal re-entry in the U.S. after having been deported in the past); and Diego Heriberto Hernandez-Ramirez (who is facing the same charge as Lin).

In an interview with federal officials, Murillo-Arce admitted he was supposed to be paid $5,000 to pilot the boat and was provided a handheld GPS device to help navigate, but he claimed he couldn't identify his employer.

DID TELEMARKETING SWINDLER GET PRISON?

Moez Hedri sold cars in Ohio, Colorado and at Orange County's Capistrano Mazda before he responded to an early 2016 Craigslist ad seeking telemarketers in Santa Ana, not far from South Coast Plaza.

Hedri, a Tunisia native who came to the U.S. in 2001, was promised he could make more money selling penny stocks if he participated in a swindling operation that caused him to create 7 SEAZ Inc.

And it's true that in a five-month period ending in May 2017, his co-conspirators deposited nearly $633,000 into his corporate account at a Bank of America in San Clemente. But the FBI discovered that clients across the nation had been duped by deceitful, high-pressure telephone-call pitches without knowing the conspirators were secretly manipulating the stock prices.

Individuals who shared the same office building with the conspirators told FBI agents they saw "a lot of coming and going, profanity, and cigarette and marijuana smoking" and that "like in the movie *Wolf of Wall Street*, there was a mass exodus at 1 p.m., when the market closed [in New York]," according to court records.

Because U.S. District Court Judge James V. Selna blocked a huge portion of the case from public view, it's not known what federal prosecutors sought as punishment for Hedri, who was born in 1975.

But this month, Selna closed his courtroom, sealed all sentencing briefs and gave the defendant a punishment of zero prison time. Instead, Hedri will serve probation for two years, during which he is banned from engaging in telemarketing activities.

R. SCOTT MOXLEY

PEI WEI SETTLES EMPLOYEE ABUSE CASE

A federal judge in Orange County has finalized a class-action employee lawsuit against Pei Wei Asian Diner LLC, with the fast-food corporation paying $600,000 to settle pretrial claims of systemic employee abuses.

Lead plaintiff Daniel Heroandez filed his lawsuit in April 2017, claiming Pei Wei management violated California Labor Code provisions by failing to provide required meal breaks, produce accurate wage statements and pay earned wages in a timely manner.

Lawyers for the corporation asked U.S. District Court Judge Josephine L. Staton to dismiss the complaint before the employees could obtain Pei Wei records, but she refused.

As discovery took place, the parties entered arbitration, which resulted in a tentative 2018 agreement with a class of 2,125 employees, who had worked shifts longer than five hours from April 2014 to April 2017 without getting a meal break.

Staton this month declared the deal "fair, reasonable and adequate."

After plaintiffs' attorney fees and costs are deducted, the employee pool is estimated to be slightly more than $341,000.

Hernandez, a terminated company employee, was also given an enhanced award of $5,000 for his primary role in the litigation.

Pei Wei, which changed its name to Pei Wei Asian Kitchen last year, has locations throughout the U.S., as well as in South Korea, Mexico, Kuwait and Dubai. The 2000-created chain is a subsidiary of P.F. Chang's China Bistro.

SPECIAL ELECTION APPROACHES

Because Todd Spitzer left his Third District supervisorial seat to become district attorney in January by toppling Tony Rackauckas, a special election is set for March 12. Qualified residents from Irvine to Orange to Yorba Linda, Tustin and Trabuco Canyon can vote. The candidates are: Kim-Thy "Katie" Hoang Bayliss, a local business owner; Larry Bales, a whistleblower of county corruption; Kristine "Kris" Murray, a former Anaheim City Council member; Loretta Sanchez, an ex-member of Congress; Katherine Daigle, a perennial candidate; Deborah Pauly, a Tea Party-type activist; and Donald P. Wagner, the mayor of Irvine.

RSCOTTMOXLEY@OCWEEKLY.COM

Summer Daze

» MATT COKER

MATT COKER

A Feb. 21 press release from a national women's advocacy organization proves I need to pay much more attention to the national news. That was not the point of UltraViolet's message titled "Women's Group Sends Letter to the FEC Demanding Investigation into the Trump Campaign's Use of Funds to Defend against Summer Zervos' Defamation Suit." It nonetheless shook me to the core.

First, we must back up to the years leading up to my father-in-law's passing in 2015. Living alone following the death of his wife of more than 50 years, Jim frequented restaurants near his Huntington Beach home to be with people. My wife and I and, if they were in town, our children often tagged along.

One of his favorite eateries was our least favorite: Sunnys Restaurant. My clan cheered when Sunnys closed in what is now an Automobile Club branch near Beach Boulevard and Adams Avenue. But Sunnys reopened at its current location on Edinger Avenue, across the street from Golden West College. Both places were dingy inside, and the food ranged from uninspiring to sick-making. Making things worse at the current spot was the hostess with a sour disposition and look on her face. We were told she was the daughter of the Sunnys owner.

I'd forgotten all about the joint until shortly after I received the UltraViolet press release. Having nothing better to do, I searched for the name "Summer Zervos" in case she had an Orange County connection. Turns out she was an attractive blonde who had been a contestant on *The Apprentice* and accused then-reality-show star Donald Trump of "aggressively kissing her" and leaving her feeling "nervous and embarrassed" when she met him in his New York office to discuss a possible Trump Organization job. Trump and the White House denied that happened, so Zervos sued for defamation.

She is the Sunnys hostess referred to earlier as previously reported by plenty of local, national and international media sources I obviously don't pay enough attention to. That changes starting now because I can't wait to discover the national scandal surrounding a certain assistant manager at Polly's Pies.

MCOKER@OCWEEKLY.COM

HeyYou!

» ANONYMOUS

Double D-Move

I was in the Nissan with its turn signal on while trying to enter the 405 freeway at Harbor. You two came up from behind in a Mercedes-Benz, gabbing away and paying no attention, forcing me to hug the shoulder until you passed. My assessment that you are dick bros was confirmed by your Mercedes speeding up to ride the tail of a car in the exit-only lane before jumping into heavy traffic at the last second. Dick move squared.

BOB ALL

HEY, YOU! Send anonymous thanks, confessions or accusations—changing or deleting the names of the guilty and innocent—to "Hey, You!" c/o *OC Weekly*, 18475 Bandilier Circle, Fountain Valley, CA 92708, or email us at letters@ocweekly.com.

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Inside the Mind of Wing Lam

THE WAHOO'S FOUNDER AND ORANGE COUNTY OG LOOKS BACK ON 30 YEARS OF SLINGING FISH TACOS

BY CYNTHIA REBOLLEDO

The lunch rush slowly dissipates at Wahoo's in South Coast Plaza until it's just me and the chain's founder/co-owner Wing Lam.

"I want people to know that it's okay to think differently," he says, looking out at the dining room. "To do things that haven't been done."

Lam is in a reflective mood nowadays. This past year, Wahoo's celebrated its 30th anniversary, with more than 60 locations across the U.S. and Japan. The company is the ultimate OC chain, multicultural, enmeshed in the action sports, beach and music scenes, focused on healthy eats—and slinging Mexican food.

It wasn't the first place to popularize Baja-style fish tacos in the United States—that would've been Rubio's—but Lam and his brothers nevertheless offer their own contribution to the history of Mexican food in the United States. Wahoo's paved the way for Asian-Mexican luxe *loncheras* such as Kogi and Dos Chinos to shine nearly 20 years after it first offered consumers a taste of its Brazilian/Chinese/Mexican fusion. Its iconic dining rooms brought street art inside, with walls adorned with stickers, surfboards and more. According to Lam, if you go to the original Costa Mesa spot off Placentia Avenue, there are stickers that date back to the location's beginnings in 1989.

"I thrived in the fact that I could create these partnerships with these brands and do events with them, which became sampling opportunities for me," he says. "By catering events, I was able to meet the athletes—so imagine having the best surfers in the world in my ads, near my circle, talking about the food."

Lam continues to lead an innovative marketing network, with his boundless enthusiasm and creativity for tackling challenges and cultivating relationships. The brothers have taken advantage of their reputation and fame to give back to charities such as the Anaheim chapter of the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation and the Surfrider Foundation, among others.

But he hasn't forgotten his roots and the fish taco that paved the way to where he is today. "We together decided to do something on our own," Lam recalls. "The restaurant industry was something we knew—it was our family's business."

The story of Wahoo's Fish Taco begins in 1988, when Wing Lam and his brothers Eduardo and Mingo Lee borrowed $30,000 from their parents to open their first restaurant. But the tale arguably stretches back even further, to 1950, when his father, Cheong Kwon Lee, fled Yang Zhou, China, eventually landing in Japan. In 1955, Mr. Lee heard there were no Chinese restaurants in Brazil, so he boarded a boat to go there. (His wife, So Ching, and their son Bismarck would join him there in 1959.)

Lam and his younger brothers, Mingo and Eduardo, were born in São Paulo, Brazil; the family moved to Costa Mesa in January 1975, when Lam was 13.

Orange County's population was almost exclusively white then, he says. The move was a journey into a brand-new social environment. "It was a major culture shock," says Lam. "The worst part was not understanding a word of what anybody was talking about. I knew 10 English words—I could count from one to 10."

For the brothers, adapting to their new community and making friends proved to be difficult in the beginning. "We were basically thrown to the wolves," he recalls. "My parents just assumed that people here dressed like people in Brazil and that we could just learn the language and get along. It wasn't like that at all."

Lam quickly learned to adapt with the help of English as a Second Language (ESL) classes. "Luckily for me, I took a Spanish class, and I became friends with the Hispanic kids," he says. "Even though I was kind of an outsider, they let me hang out because at least I could speak Spanish—but you could tell I wasn't exactly one of them."

Come high school, Lam and his younger brothers were fully integrated into Southern California's surf culture. "I spent a good amount of my life trying to fit in, but once I had my own business, I was like, 'To hell with that' and fully embraced who I was," he says. "I let my hair down."

It turns out being different makes you stand out. "We wanted a place where we could hang out after surfing and be with all of our friends," Lam says.

His family's story of survival is one that resonates with many immigrant families. "My parents were entrepreneurs by default, I got to see them work hard and be creative," he says. "But it really wasn't an option because there was a business to run." Lam's parents had opened the first Chinese restaurant in Newport Beach, Shanghai Pine Garden. As with other minority communities and institutions, Lam's family's restaurant changed Orange County's cultural landscape.

Lam says that his first year-and-a-half in business, he worked seven days a week, open to close, every day. "It's what you have to do."

And in many ways, Lam's winding route to entrepreneurship has come full circle, as he and his brothers were invited to bring the Wahoo's experience to the James Beard House in October 2018. "We are positively thrilled to welcome Wing, Ed and Mingo, and the entire Wahoo's family to the Beard House," Izabela Wojcik, director of house programming, said in a press release. "The Beard House has a longstanding history of hosting memorable and refined meals and chefs, but as we progress through our third decade, we have expanded our commitment to highlighting sustainable seafood practices as a core of our mission, and Wahoo's certainly stood out in that arena."

"Hosting dinner at the James Beard House is a testament to our hard work," Lam says, adding that it builds upon the foundations his parents established in the local food industry. "I would have loved to have taken my dad. . . . I'll find a way to go back and take him there."

CREBOLLEDO@OCWEEKLY.COM

» TO PUT TOGETHER YOUR OWN TACO PARTY, TURN THE PAGE

How to Host Your Own Taco Party!

A GUIDE TO THE BEST THE COUNTY HAS TO OFFER

BY CYNTHIA REBOLLEDO

Orange County is home to some of the best *taqueros* and vendors in Southern California, with no shortage of Taco Tuesdays. So in celebration of all things taco, we've put together a guide to our favorite Orange County *tortillerias* and *carnicerias*, all of which offer more than just the standard. Now you can host your own *puro pinche* taco party!

TORTILLAS

Where to find the tastiest, most pliable, toothsome, nixtamal-flavored tortillas with which to cradle succulent meats.

Flor de Mexicali: Buy a pound of tortillas, then taste the thick, earthy wonderfully yellow masa with the vibrancy of life. *1212 S. Bristol St., Santa Ana, (714) 751-4132*

Nuño Brothers Market: Nuño Brothers Market in San-Tana, a sprawling shopping plaza in Nuño Brothers Plaza, offers a couple of varieties of corn tortillas, including a king-sized one. *1214 S. Standard Ave., Santa Ana, (714) 972-0488*

Northgate González Market: Made fresh at every store from masa (none of that Maseca), then either sold fresh on the spot or packaged for the shelves, where they disappear quickly. *Various locations, www.northgatemarket.com.*

Jimenez Ranch Market: The mega-pack sold at Jimenez Ranch Market holds 90 tortillas. It also offers salsa Guacatillo, a delicious combination of guacamole and tomatillo (you'll want to buy a tub). *1303 N. Main St., Santa Ana, (714) 541-6270*

La Reina Markets: Purchase tortillas hot off the press, tostadas and masa in store daily. *508 N. East St., Anaheim, (714) 772-0582, also at 909 N. Tustin St., Orange, (714) 997-9525, www.lareinamarkets.com.*

El Campeon: This store sells masa, so you can make your own tortillas or buy them premade—don't forget the chips! *31921 Camino Capistrano, San Juan Capistrano, (949) 489-4078*

CARNE

Many meat markets sell carne asada preparada, pre-marinated and ready to throw on the grill, then char until tender. But you can also marinate a cut of beef on your own.

El Toro Carniceria: Get ready to stand in line—it's worth it. Not only will you find wonderful pre-marinated meats, but the market also offers the moistest carnitas around. *¿Y las tortillas?* Yep, those, too! *1340 W. First St., Santa Ana, (714) 836-1393*

El Gaucho Meat Market Buy the flap meat to marinate in El Gaucho's house-made chimichurri (sold in bottles). You'll thank us later. *847 S. State College Blvd., Anaheim, (714) 776-6400*

La Bodega Market This mom-and-pop *carniceria* is small, but it has everything you need, even the charcoal. *259 S. Tustin St., Orange, (714) 633-7978*

Marina Ranch Market This is the spot for fresh produce, ready-to-grill carne asada and crisp chips. *34146 Pacific Coast Hwy., Dana Point, (949) 496-4669*

Tula Market Buy your meat already cooked or pick out your cut from the deli case to grill yourself. Tula also sells freshly made tortillas, salsa and produce for a one-stop shopping trip. *24418 Rockfield Blvd., Lake Forest, (949) 581-5150*

SALSA

Here's the basics on how to make them or where to get them. (Note: most carnicerías sell freshly made options at varying spice levels.)

Pico de Gallo: A good pico de gallo combines chopped, deseeded tomatoes, cilantro, white onions, serrano chiles, lime juice, and salt to taste. Nothing more.

Alta Baja Market Owner Delilah Snell's house-made jams, preserves and spreads sell out fast—and extends to her salsas (which rotate seasonally). Get 'em while they're hot! *201 E. Fourth St., Santa Ana, (714) 783-2252; altabajamarket.com.*

Guacatillo: Roast five tomatillos (their husks removed) until softened and charred, then combine them with four (or more, if you want it *caliente*) serrano chiles and two tablespoons chopped cilantro in a blender until smooth. Add one-quarter of a ripe avocado (peeled and pitted) and continue blending until it's fully integrated; repeat with the other quarters. Season with salt, then keep processing until you reach your desired texture (we prefer it smooth). *Buen provecho!*

La Pradera Carniceria Stop here for fresh guacamole, tomatillo salsa and some freshly made chips. *3047 S. Bristol St., Santa Ana, (714) 662-1234*

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PURPLE REIGN

DISNEY

fri/03/01

[CONCERT]

United We Skank

La Banda Skalavera

Fusing together cumbia, ska, salsa and punk, La Banda Skalavera have been at the center of the Southern California music scene for more than 20 years. Since singer/guitarist George Mercado formed the group in South Central in the late '90s, they've pushed the boundaries of high-energy ska while paying homage to their Latin roots. This is as evident in such original songs as "Injusto" and "Sistema Perdido" as it is in their cover of Celia Cruz's "Pachito Eche." While many of La Banda Skalavera's songs are great for moshing or skanking to, it's not uncommon for their live shows to turn into full-on Latin dance parties. As Jack Kerouac once said, "You just can't fall when you get into the rhythm of the dance."

La Banda Skalavera with Los Pedos, Blanco y Negro, and La Muerte at Chain Reaction, 1652 W. Lincoln Ave., Anaheim, (714) 635-6067; allages.com. 7 p.m. $10.

—STEVE DONOFRIO

[BURLESQUE]

SWEET ESCAPE

Sex and Candy Burlesque

What to expect when the producer of Foodies and Boobies burlesque brunch decides to host a late-night show? Sex and Candy! Tonight at Harvelle's in Long Beach, these two very delightful subjects come together. Indulge in one of the house's special dessert martinis as comedian/singer Scout Durwood performs alongside burlesque beauties Darling Nikki, Gemini Woman, Lola LaMinx and more. Martin and Hooter Moreno will open the show with a special comedy set. And if that wasn't enough to lure you in, guests will also receive free candy.

Sex and Candy Burlesque at Harvelle's, 201 E. Broadway, Long Beach, (562) 239-3700, longbeach.harvelles.com. 9 p.m. $10-$80. 21+. —ERIN DEWITT

sat/03/02

[LITERARY EVENTS]

Good As Gold

Boca de Oro

Downtown Santa Ana's third-annual Boca de Oro ("Mouth of Gold") festival of readings, literary workshops and live music at 20 hosting venues begins at noon with keynote speaker Justin Torres, whose debut novel, *We the Animals*, won wide acclaim. It concludes four dozen sessions and nine hours later with a concert by Banda Magda, whose multilingual music is sung by a multitalented Greek chanteuse with Latin attitude. Bookish topics include political poetry, Mexican culture, human trafficking, alternative history, and journaling with special sessions by and for students. Authors are available to sign books—all of them for sale, of course.

Boca de Oro starts at Orange County Center for Contemporary Art, 117 S. Sycamore St., Santa Ana, (714) 667-1517, www.bocadeoro.org. Noon. Free

—ANDREW TONKOVICH

[CONCERT]

WE GOT CHILLS

The Chills & Cotillon

New Zealand band the Chills' 1984 single "Pink Frost" was an underground hit that never stopped reverberating. In fact, the Chills rerecorded it in 2013 with a Television-style first movement, and it's still great. Their 2018 full-length, *Snow Bound*, is as clear and true as you'd hope. Support comes from Cotillon, made and led by Jordan Corso, who matches a *Flying Nun*-style sense for chansmatic cacophony with the contrarian pop instincts of Jonathan Richman or Alex Chilton. His discography offers a kind of powerful personality that's missing (or muffled) in a lot of semi-lo indie music now, and Cotillon is exactly the kind of outfit who should be onstage just before the Chills.

The Chills, Cotillon and Venetian Blinds at the Wayfarer, 843 W. 19th St., Costa Mesa, (949) 764-0039, www.thewayfarercm.com. 8 p.m. $20-$25. 21+. —CHRIS ZIEGLER

sun/03/03

[FOOD & DRINK]

Doughnut Miss This

Specialized Donut Bike Ride

Have you ever wanted to bike around the Back Bay, then drink copious amounts of coffee and eat doughnuts? You need to come to Specialized Costa Mesa's Monthly Donut Run. At just more than 37 kilometers, this is a bike ride to challenge—and afterward soothe because nothing is more comforting than caffeine and sugar! Plus, you get the added benefit of riding past the pristine beauty of the Back Bay. Who knows? Maybe you will see one of the 35,000 migratory birds who make their home in the wetlands as you coast by, dreaming of that hot cup o' joe and fried dough you get to reward yourself with when you're finished.

Specialized Donut Bike Ride at Specialized Costa Mesa, 1901 Harbor Blvd., Costa Mesa, (949) 722-3530; www.specializedcostamesa.com. 8 a.m. Free. —LILA SHAKTI

[THEATER]

Forgotten Her-story

Photograph 51

The number of stories of untold women trailblazers in history is considerable, and today, Rosalind Franklin's story is told in *Photograph 51*, which runs at South Coast Repertory this month. The play follows the British scientist's role in discovering the double helix structure of DNA in the 1950s, as well as the general difficulties and prejudices women faced in the scientific field. Despite that, Franklin's display of courage and backbone allowed her to help usher in a new era of genetics studies. Watch her inspirational life story play out onstage.

Photograph 51 at South Coast Repertory, 650 Town Center Dr., Costa Mesa, (714) 708-5555, www.scr.org. 2 p.m. Through March 24. $20–$47 —AIMEE MURILLO

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mon/03/04

[ART]

The Beauty of Mortality

'Quietus'

Though artworks depicting animal carcasses and blood may not seem life-affirming, they are the product of a healing journey. With the print exhibit "Quietus," artist/educator Joseph Paul Gerges uses these controversial images as metaphors for his experiences coping with illness, divorce and death. It was through these works that Gerges found the strength to heal, and he hopes the work will be similarly curative and inspiring to others who are caught up in life's trials.

"Quietus" at Irvine Fine Arts Center, 14321 Yale, Irvine, (949) 724-6880; www.cityofirvine.org/. 10 a.m. Through March 30. Free. —SCOTT FEINBLATT

tue/03/05

[ART]

World of Color

'The Magic and Flair of Mary Blair'

Disney-lovers don't have to pay for over-priced Disneyland tickets to have an enchanting experience thanks to the Hilbert Museum of California Art. On display are 20 pieces from late Disney artist Mary Blair, who created the concept art for the classic Disneyland attraction "It's a Small World." Blair also developed the concept art for such iconic movies as *Alice in Wonderland*, *Peter Pan* and *Cinderella*. The Oklahoma-born artist's style catches the eye with vibrant colors and a whimsical vibe, you'll feel immersed in the fantastical worlds she helped to create.

"The Magic and Flair of Mary Blair" at Hilbert Museum of California Art, 167 N. Atchison St., Orange, (714) 516-5880; www.hilbertmuseum.com. 11 a.m. Through Oct. 19. Free. —LAUREN GALVAN

wed/03/06

[FILM]

YOU SHOULD BE DANCING

Saturday Night Fever

Transport yourself to when disco reigned supreme and John Travolta didn't resemble a creepy wax figure. Almost 42 years after its premiere, *Saturday Night Fever* is being presented in 4K at the Starlight Cinemas. The film follows Tony (played by Travolta), an underdog from Brooklyn who trains to become the best disco duo with love interest Stephanie (Karen Lynn Gorney), who would give anything to make it big in Manhattan. You'll be dancing in your seats to the tunes by Barry, Robin and Maurice Gibb. Often parodied throughout pop culture, *Saturday Night Fever* confronts the feelings of loneliness and the struggles that come with being the black sheep of your family. Can ya dig it?

Saturday Night Fever at Starlight Cinemas, 5635 E. La Palma Ave., Anaheim, (714) 970-6700, starlightcinemas.com. 7 p.m. $7. —MORGAN EDWARDS

[FESTIVALS]

Rock Your Body

Nuriv 2019 Expo West Music Festival

When punk rock and science join forces, greatness can happen. Today's Nuriv 2019 Expo brings an unprecedented lineup of badass punk bands including Fat Wreck Chords heroes Bad Cop/Bad Cop, Direct Hit and Dog Party; as for the headliner, it's a band whose status the label was keeping under wraps at press time. In addition to live music, the Nuriv Expo features experts and professionals from the health-food industry talking shop and discussing what directions companies are taking to nourish minds and bodies. Vendors will also offer up tasty snack samples, and you'll learn what foods are ideal to avoid or consume to keep you feeling your best. After all, gotta take care of that bod if it's going to rage in the pit.

Nuriv 2019 Expo West Music Festival at Esports Arena, 120 W. Fifth St., Santa Ana, www.nuriv.com. 12:30 p.m. Free, but RSVP required. —AIMEE MURILLO

thu/03/07

[FILM]

Pre-Code Wonders

Silent Movie Night

During the Pre-Code era of film (everything before 1934), and especially during the Jazz Age, liberated women with free sexuality dominated the silver screen and were almost never punished for their power and sensuality. Victor Fleming's *Mantrap*, a romantic comedy set in the fictional frontier town of the same name, serves as a double-entendre for the spirited Clara Bow, who flirts and flits her way into every man's heart. Filmed the year before Bow would famously become the "It Girl" and based on Sinclair Lewis' unsuccessful novel, Fleming manages to liberate his characters from the text in this charming, rip-roaring adventure tale. Award-winning composer Michael Mortilla provides live accompaniment during the screening, so don't miss it!

Silent Movie Night at the Muckenthaler Cultural Center, 1201 W. Malvern Ave., Fullerton, (714) 738-6595, www.themuck.org. 7:30 p.m. $15–$30. —SR DAVIES

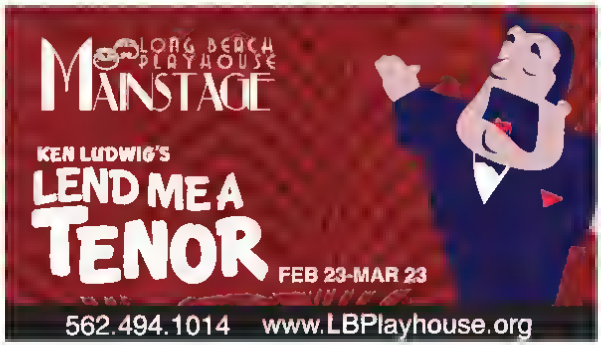
[PERFORMING ARTS]

CAN'T BEAT A CLASSIC

Aladdin

If you feel as if your trust and faith in *Aladdin* has been betrayed by the trailer for the upcoming Will Smith vehicle, here's a beacon of hope for you. The touring musical that is faithful to the 1992 animated film will take over the Segerstrom Center stage. Once the toast of Broadway, the play features a number of hits from the musical team of Alan Menken, Howard Ashman and Tim Rice—tunes that were indelible for kids of a certain age (you remember "A Whole New World," right?). Regardless of whether you are excited for or dubious of the rebooted version of the film, this *Aladdin* will be a pleasant reminder of a time when the animation was less computer-driven and the songs were catchy and enjoyable.

Aladdin at Segerstrom Center for the Arts, 600 Town Center Dr., Costa Mesa, (714) 556-2787, www.scfta.org. 7:30 p.m. Through March 23. $26.50–$165.75. —WYOMING REYNOLDS



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Rice Above the Rest

Woodfire Kabob in Laguna Hills pays attention to the details in everything it serves

BY EDWIN GOEI

If you've ever eaten kebab or koobideh at a Persian restaurant, you've had chelo. That's the proper name for the steamed basmati rice on which your grilled meat rests, but it's more than just rice. You can't make chelo by throwing the grains in a rice cooker and walking away.

When done right, chelo takes more effort to prepare than the meat. You must first soak the rice in salted water for a couple of hours, then drain it. Next, the rice is briefly boiled to tenderize the outer part of the grain while keeping the core firm. The pot is then drained of the water, and the rice gets mixed with yogurt, butter and, sometimes, egg. The mixture is gently steamed until fluffy. If all the steps are performed correctly, it's a testament to how paying attention to the details can transform simple ingredients into something extraordinary.

You can experience properly made chelo when you order any of the grilled-meat plates at Woodfire Kabob in Laguna Hills. Every permutation of grilled protein—be it koobideh, kebab or barg—comes with ridiculous amounts of this rice, each pile topped with a yellow streak of saffron-stained grains.

When you take a spoon to it, you can see how well Woodfire Kabob's chelo is made. There's not a single clump to be found, with each basmati grain distinctly independent from the next. And when you chew it, you detect a subtle richness and slight tang from the butter and yogurt. But most of all, the basmati is so light and fragrant it feels as though you're eating something made of air rather than carbohydrates.

But the rice is just half of the experience. It is, after all, meant to be a canvas on which the meat and grilled vegetables flourish. The most popular protein to order is the koobideh, seasoned ground beef hand-packed around a flat metal sword. The meat is roasted over an open flame until browned and freckled with char. And at Woodfire Kabob, the koobidehs are the girthiest in the county. A typical serving comes in two foot-long lengths. If you dangled both upright and end-to-end, it would stand as tall as Verne Troyer.

Only the lightest pressure of your fork is required to cut into the koobideh; it's so soft it melts. The chicken version—tinted orange from turmeric and saffron—weeps juice when you bite into it. But it's when you smoosh the molten roasted tomatoes to make an impromptu rice-moistening sauce and squeeze lime over the char-kissed meat, singed onion and blackened green pepper that you begin to grasp how these basic ingredients result in something miraculous with just the right application of fire.

APPETIZINGLY FULFILLED

EDWIN GOEI

This is not to say the restaurant rests on the laurels of its grill. The owners are the same seasoned cooks who previously operated Heidar Baba, the Persian counter at the shuttered Ansar Gallery in Tustin. Now working inside the opulently furnished dining room of what used to be the Laguna Hills Mall's Elephant Bar, they imported all their old specialties, including the classic walnut-and-pomegranate chicken stew called fesenjoon. Also offered are different permutations of polo, complex recipes of basmati rice cooked with lentils, barberries, dill or sour cherries.

But even the appetizers verge on the elaborate. If you're lucky, the kitchen won't have run out of the "Tadig 1/2 and 1/2," crispy rice served with ghormeh (a stew of yellow split peas, tomato sauce, dried lemon and beef) and ghormeh sabzi (vegetables cooked with red kidney beans and steak). If the tadig is unavailable, the hummus is a great consolation prize: it's velvety smooth and embellished with olive oil. And the soup called ashe reshteh—full of beans, noodles and crispy fried onions, with a finishing swirl of the yogurt called kashk—is pure comfort food, a kind of Middle Eastern cure-all for colds and cold weather.

Woodfire Kabob may also be the only Persian restaurant in Orange County that offers an intricately composed noon panir sabzi plate for free. The dish—which translates to "bread cheese herbs" and is something that's eaten for breakfast in Iran—comes out as soon as you sit down. It includes a basket of lavash from which you build little wraps, picking what you want from the arrangement of feta-cheese cubes, cucumbers, tomatoes, olives, radishes, green onions, walnuts, butter, pickled peppers and two herbs (mint and lemon basil).

The meticulous care taken in preparing this complimentary appetizer—which no customer is expecting to get for free until they do—is proof that the same attention to detail the owners employ to create the perfect batch of chelo extends to everything, even the stuff they give away.

WOODFIRE KABOB
24155 Laguna Hills Mall, Ste. 1055, Laguna Hills, (949) 220-0000; woodfirekabob.com.
Open Mon.-Thurs., 11 a.m.-9:30 p.m., Fri.-Sun., 11 a.m.-10 p.m. Entrees, $14.99-$28.99. No alcohol.

WHAT THE ALE
» GREG NAGEL

I Like It Extra Thix

The Good Beer Co.'s Brandon Fender thumps down a can of beer in front of me and says nothing. We're in his wooden tasting room on Fourth Street in downtown Santa Ana, and I know he's dying to spill the details.

"This is Extra Thix," he says as he adopts a karate pose. "It's kind of made in the mold of a barleywine or an old ale, like, with pre-monoculture fermentation."

I tap my chin, perplexed. "What the heck does that mean?"

"I guess it's like what a barleywine or old ale would have been like 100 to 150 years ago," Fender responds.

"Mono-what?"

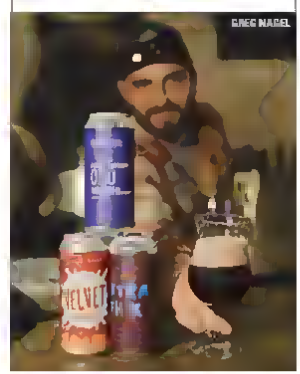
"Monoculture fermentation, like how things fermented before science," he answers. "It's kind of tongue-in-cheek calling it that."

With an 8 percent ABV, Extra Thix is a collaboration with the bad boys at Anaheim's Bottle Logic and the hip-slapper collabagician at Horus Aged Ales. Two mashes were boiled for three hours, fermented in stainless steel, then racked into third-hand Madagascar bourbon barrels.

If a port wine producer did a collaboration with Tootsie Pops, the end result would probably taste something like this. The caramelized sugars, vanilla and chocolatey oak come together like a black cherry sucker. There's acidity, sweetness and a kiss of booze. As it sits on your lips as if it were a cherry cola lip gloss, its mild carbonation keeps you going back for another sip.

Pair with skating at the local roller rink or a Beck concert.

THE GOOD BEER CO.
309 W. Fourth St., Santa Ana, (714) 714-2988, thegoodbeerco.com



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ERIN DEWITT

Perfect Bite

Bite Mi nails the art of the bánh mì

Residents of the neighborhood adjacent to the Long Beach Airport have been eagerly waiting for the Hangar at Long Beach Exchange (LBX) to open, as it would bring several new boutique eateries to this part of town. But even during the food hall's official preview (which we covered two issues back), only two restaurants were operational. The Hangar has been teasing its official opening for several months now (the LBX website advertised the Hangar was "Joining Us in Fall 2018," a banner that stayed up well into this year), and we're all getting hungry.

One of the first eateries to open is Bite Mi, a quick-service Vietnamese sandwich and beverage spot, though it's still in its soft-opening phase. Behind Bite Mi is a team of restaurant-industry vets: co-owners Anne and Dan Tran also own Popbar at the Anaheim Packing District; Ted Vu and Scott Nguyen are the founders/owners of tea-and-smoothie chain Tastea, and Phillip Lu is one of the owners of OC-based THH (Tan Hoang Huong) Sandwiches. That's decades upon decades of restaurant chops, collectively.

The menu is currently limited to a selection of a few bánh mì sandwiches, smoothies, milk teas and coffee drinks (with customizable sweetness and ice levels), though such dishes as chicken wings and loaded fries, among others, will slowly debut one by one.

The beverage selection includes choices such as the Just Peachy, Bite Mi's signature peach black tea with small fruit pieces. "We actually flew to the tea farm in Taiwan to meet the farmers and had our own special blend made specifically for us," says Vu. Of the frosty blended beverages, the Kiss My Haas avocado drink resembled a vanilla milkshake more than anything else. There's also Vietnamese iced coffee for those who want a week's worth of caffeine in one go, as well as the House Special Coffee, a medium-strength brew with hints of hazelnut, cocoa and house-made salted cream.

LongBeachLunch

» ERIN DEWITT

The bánh mì options during my visit were baked chicken, grilled pork or the House Special DB. At the bottom of the menu, it reads, "All bánh mì are served with house-made mayonnaise, pickled daikon and carrots, jalapeños, cilantro [and] cucumbers." And even those condiments come from expert hands. Husband-and-wife duo Tam Dong and Lan Luu (also of THH) built a storeroom in which they prepare the bread, meat, mayo and pickled vegetables from scratch. "Having a commissary allows us to focus on consistency and speed, which will be one of the hallmarks of Bite Mi," says Vu.

That House Special DB sandwich, though. Layered between halves of an extra-crunchy baguette are soft circles of Vietnamese bologna, red bacon (a perfectly crispy alternative to the chewy red meat slices sometimes found in bánh mìs), thick slices of sweet hot-pink Vietnamese sausage, loads of pickled-veggie strips, the occasional fiery jalapeño disc, just a whisper of mayo, and a smear of rich and savory pâte.

The packaging also deserves recognition. Sandwiches are delivered in an Air Mail-inspired wrap secured with cute postage stamps featuring sandwiches or bacon nestled among decorative fauna, the name of each banh mi typed neatly below. The drink lids are even adorable, mine read, "Wake Mi Up (before you go go)."

According to Vu, diners will be able to enjoy a fuller menu once Bite Mi has its grand opening, but the company is already looking toward expansion, with a Cypress location set to open this summer.

BITE MI
at the Hangar at Long Beach Exchange, 4150 McGowen St., Sta 5, Long Beach, (562) 420-4884, www.bitemi.com

PHOTOS BY GREG NAGEL

Taco Trail

A roundup of tacos *y cervezas*

If the food truck movement of yesteryear taught us anything it's that tacos pair well with craft beer. Case in point, I'll never forget the days when the Dos Chinos truck would park outside Noble Ale Works and how I'd pair Thai coconut curry Hollywood tacos with a Big Whig IPA. Sure, there's nothing wrong with a dollar taco and a cheap industrial lager, but after snacking on a finely crafted heirloom nixtamal tortilla with braised Jidori chicken while sipping a small-batch Brett Trois-fermented IPA, well, this sacred marriage of liquid and solid shall never be divorced. Here are my picks for optimal pairings.

PUESTO

I had my doubts when Puesto opened, but just one bite of the filet mignon taco and I felt as if my life had changed in a significant way. The blue-corn tortilla is like the beat in New Order's "Blue Monday," and the fried-Oaxacan-cheese-wrapped beef is like, "How does it feel/to treat me like you do/when you lay your hands upon me . . ." Enjoy it with Unsung Brewing's Puesto pale ale. *3311 Michelson Dr., Irvine, (949) 608-7272, also at 8577 Irvine Center Dr, Irvine, (949) 608-9990, eatpuesto.com.*

POUR VIDA LATIN FLAVOR

The fact that chef Jimmy Martinez lives a few doors down from me and I can often smell meat cooking from his back yard didn't secure his placement on this list. It's more because his beer taps are curated by his lovely wife, Christina, who confesses her love for the modern hoppy pilsner (same, omg), and that Jimmy's ultra-modern Brussels sprout taco with soy-ginger glaze pairs so well with Gunwhale Ales' Kölsch-style brew on tap. *185 W Center Street Promenade, Anaheim, (657) 208-3889, pourvidalatinflavor.com.*

EL INDIO BOTANAS Y CERVEZA

Taco Tuesdays here offer some of the best people-watching in the county, with bartenders singing along with Latin hip-hop and stylish dads stopping in for an adult happy meal: five tacos and an imported Mexican craft beer. Just $1 each, the tacos act as a perfect salsa-delivery system, and the lager from Cervecería de Colima is the antidote for whatever is sizzling in your mouth well after you've finished eating. *309 W Third St., Santa Ana, (714) 547-7868*

TAPS BREWERY & BARREL ROOM

Chef Roman Jimenez's Electric Taco starts with a heap of griddle-melted Oaxacan-Cotija cheese on a truck-made tortilla. It's then built up with caramelized rajas, beer-marinated carne asada and chorizo pork belly. If I were on death row, this would be my last taco. Pair it with a pilsner. *15501 Red Hill Ave., Tustin, (657) 247-3920, www.tapsbrewery.com/tasting-room.*

LA SIRENA GRILL

My first time at the South Laguna location, I sat at the bar and asked what should I get. "Dudebro, you should totally get the calamari taco," was the response. "It's freakishly incredible edible." The lightly breaded, steak-cut calamari (not rings!) is topped with cabbage and a heaping ice cream scoop of fresh, limey guacamole. The beer list is definitely one of South County's hidden gems, displaying the best of Escondido-based Stone Distributing's portfolio. Do Stone reps make it to North County these days? My guess is they stop here, get tacos, then forget to travel the rest of Orange County. *30862 Coast Hwy, Laguna Beach, (949) 499-2301, www.lasirenagrill.com.*

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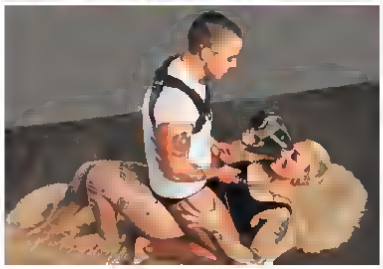

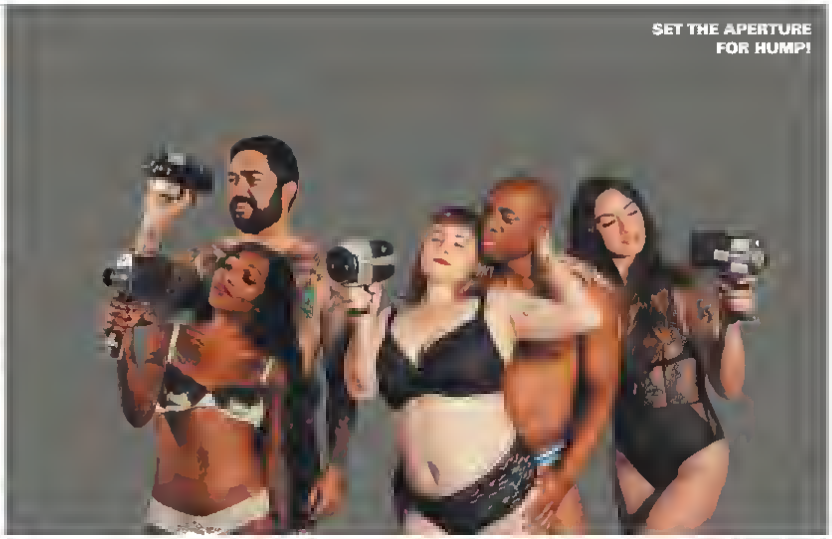

SET THE APERTURE FOR HUMP!

COURTESY HUMP FILM FESTIVAL

Savage Lovers

Dan Savage's Hump! Film Festival returns

BY MATT COKER

Dan Savage, the Savage Love columnist and editorial director of the Seattle alternative newsweekly *The Stranger*, invariably singles out the same film when asked what's new at his 14th annual Hump! Film Festival.

It's a five-minute musical comedy set in the bathroom of a gay leather bar.

"I promise you, you've never seen anything like it—on Netflix, on the networks, on HBO," Savage told the *Coachella Valley Independent*'s Jimmy Boegle in January. "It's the sort of thing you could only see at Hump!"

Which means *Troughman*, the 2019 Hump! award winner for Best Humor, can only be seen regionally at the Art Theatre in Long Beach, where the festival's 21 short porn films run Wednesday night.

Savage has said 2005's first Hump was, *ahem*, mounted as a joke, but here we are 14 years later with another lusty collection. The criteria for inclusion in the fest remains the same: Each film must clock in at five minutes or fewer and be made by people of all sexual persuasions who are not porn stars but want to be for one weekend.

That has produced festivals filled with content that is intended to be hot and sexy and creative and kinky—with viewers serving as the ultimate judges on whether the first-time Fellinis (or Seymore Buttses) achieve their intended results. Hump! organizers promise a "carefully curated program" featuring "a cornucopia of body types, shapes, ages, colors, sexualities, genders, kinks and fetishes—all united by a shared spirit of sex-positivity."

What follows is the 14th annual Hump lineup, with the organizers' own film descriptions (and, where applicable, awards indicated).

Paint Party This gang buys a few gallons of paint. With apologies to their landlord.

Bloom. As two lovers stream through each other's bodies and consciousnesses, orgasmic hallucinations bloom through their synchronized minds.

Campground. A horny Boy Scout goes on a nighttime hike in the woods. Inspired by the gay erotic film *Pink Narcissus*.

Jump Start My Love. This kinky couple connects for a midday power hoost. Sometimes, it's watching home movies together that leaves you the most satisfied!

Unicorn. This couple has a different way of looking at love and sex, elegantly conveyed through our shared human experience.

My Cathartic Release. Take a peek into one woman's masochistic journey to find a sweet, sweet release.
(Best Kink winner)

Task Master. An obedient sub takes the term "dirty boy" to a whole new level. Chatting online can get messy.

Spin. Your favorite middle-school game has turned into a big basement bang fest. You can almost hear the parents yelling, "What's going on down there?"

The Punishment. In this stylish BDSM film, a couple returns home after a night on the town to explore the arts of dominance and submission. This female lead takes control of her kink by initiating her punishment by being a brat and misbehaving.

Porn Yesterday. A look at how terrible adults were at hiding porn and how good we were at finding it.
(Jury Award winner)

Whatever Floats Your Goat. It's never a dull day in the dairy room, but when a strange new breed of goat shows up this morning, our milkmaid will have to work extra hard to get that milk!
(Best Humor runner up.)

Please. Consent is sexy. Here's the proof. A deep exploration of rough sex. (Best Sex runner up.)

Troughman. A man tries to build up the courage to ask another man to piss on him in the Leather Stallion restroom trough.
(Best Humor winner)

Luminous Lust. A real-life couple boldly brings the audience into the most intimate parts of their lives, sharing with the camera how the couple fell in love, what about each partner turns them on, and how they first met.

Mama for Lunch. Coming home from work for lunch, a boyfriend finds something even more delicious to fill up on.

The Wheel of Fortune. Five strangers are bound by flesh and metal. Only their release can set them free.
(Best Kink runner up.)

Extreme Wild Fuck. "Extreme Wild Fuck With Petite GF—Amateur Couple Mountain Top Fuck Fest." When you set out for a hike, you never know what you'll "come" across on top of the mountain.
(Best Sex winner)

Insomniacs. Hotel. Night. While everyone is asleep, the cursed creep is out, as hungry as ever. Infrared cameras, outdoor exhibition and sloppy hole.

Optic Nerve. Put on your spectacles, open your lids, and lend us your gaze. You'll want to ogle this cornea-copia of optical illusions and private eyes!

All of Us. Exploration of the multidimensional story of two lovers' sexual and emotional relationship, expressing their passions for pain and pleasure in sweet soliloquies.

Around the World in 80 Lays. A young couple stuck in a sexual rut decides to explore Planet Earth AND BEYOND! Sometimes the greatest sexual journeys require frequent-flyer miles.
(Best in Show winner)

MCOKER@OCWEEKLY

HUMP! FILM FESTIVAL
at Art Theatre,
2025 E. Fourth St., Long Beach,
(562) 438-5435, humpfilmfest.com
Wed., 9 p.m.
$20-$24.49

Frankly, My Dear…

BY MATT COKER

Gone With the Wind. Fathom Events kicks off four 80th-anniversary screening dates for the historical romance epic based on Margaret Mitchell's novel from 1936. *Various theaters, www.fathomevents.com. Thurs., Feb 28 & Sun., 1 & 6 p.m. $12.50.*

A Clockwork Orange. Stanley Kubrick's masterful 1971 adaptation of Anthony Burgess' novel mixes hyper-reality with ultra-violence. *The Frida Cinema, thefridacinema.org. Thurs., Feb 28, 2:30, 5:30 & 8:30 p.m. $7-$10.*

***Best Mom* Film Screening and Shop Event.** First, see Kuang Lee's 2018 family comedy. Afterward, fire questions at screenwriter Meg Weidner at the lululemon store. *The Lot Fashion Island, 999 Newport Center Dr., Newport Beach, (949) 281-0069. Thurs., Feb. 28, doors open, 5 p.m., Q&A, 7 p.m. Free.*

National Theatre Live: *Antony & Cleopatra.* Join a pre-screening discussion, then view a broadcast of a recording from the London stage of director Simon Godwin's production of Shakespeare's famous play. *Irvine Barclay Theatre, www.thebarclay.org. Thurs., Feb. 28, discussion, 5 p.m. Free, but RSVP requested, screening, 6:30 p.m. $17-$22.*

Freedom Writers: Stories From the Heart. Erin Gruwell was a young English teacher when she inspired at-risk students to become more tolerant and to pursue education beyond graduation from Long Beach's Wilson High School. A panel discussion follows. *Chapman University, (714) 997-6812. Thurs., Feb 28, screening, 6 p.m., panel discussion, 7 p.m., audience Q&A, 7:45 p.m., book signing, 8 p.m. Free, but an RSVP is appreciated.*

The Mystery of Picasso. It's a filmed record of Pablo Picasso painting numerous canvases for the camera, allowing viewers to see his creative process at work. Snacks and refreshments are provided. *Huntington Beach Art Center, (714) 374-1650. Thurs., Feb 28, 6:30 p.m. Free, but donations are gladly accepted.*

Scott Pilgrim vs the World. Edgar Wright's stunningly original movie, which is based on Bryan Lee O'Malley's Oni Press comic book, follows 22-year-old Sex Bob-omb band member Scott, who must fight to the death Ramona's seven ex-lovers if he is to win her heart. *The Frida Cinema, thefridacinema.org. Thurs., Feb. 28, 7:30 & 10 p.m.; Fri., 8 p.m. $10.*

Furie. Veronica Ngo stars in Le Van Kiet's new Vietnamese action movie as an ex-gangster who is laying low in the countryside after becoming a mother. However, she can't escape her violent past when her daughter is kidnapped. *Regency Westminster, (714) 893-4222. Opens Fri. Call theater for show times and ticket prices.*

***Todos lo saben* (*Everybody Knows*).** In Asghar Farhadi's 2018 drama-mystery, a Spanish woman (Penelope Cruz) returns with her children from Argentina to attend her sister's wedding in Madrid. Unexpected events during the trip expose secrets. *Regency South Coast Village, (714) 557-5701. Opens Fri. Call theater for show times and ticket prices.*

***Werk ohne Autor* (*Never Look Away*).** Florian Henckel von Donnersmarck's 2018 historical drama thriller is about how artist Kurt Barnert (Tom Schilling) escaped from East Germany to West Germany but remained tormented by his childhood. *Directors Cut Cinema at Regency Rancho Niguel, (949) 831-0446. Opens Fri. Call theater for show times and ticket prices.*

Ghost Dance. Experimental filmmaker Ken McMullen's 1983 drama is the only film that stars Robbie Coltrane and Jacques Derrida! *Chapman University, chapman.edu/dodge/. Fri., 1 p.m. Free.*

Phantom of the Paradise. In Brian De Palma's 1974 cult classic, Paul Williams stars as a record producer who not only steals the music of a songwriter (William Finley), but also ruins his life. Disfigurement leaves the songwriter hungry for revenge. *The Frida Cinema, thefridacinema.org. Fri.-Sat., 10 p.m. $7-$10.*

Jimi Hendrix: Electric Church. This rockumentary chronicles the electric guitar god's largest U.S. performance, which was at the massive Atlanta Pop Music Festival in July 1970. Besides enjoying previously unseen concert footage of Hendrix, you'll take in appearances by Paul McCartney, Steve Winwood, Derek Trucks and many more. *Art Theatre, arttheatrelongbeach.org. Sat.-Sun., 11 a.m. $6-$11.*

The Met: Live in HD: *La Fille du Regiment.* Bel canto stars Pretty Yende and Javier Camarena team up for Donizetti's comic opera that is sung in French with English subtitles. A young woman, who was raised since a baby by an army regiment that found her orphaned on a battlefield, must choose between marrying a soldier, as decreed by her foster father, or her true love. *Various theaters, www.fathomevents.com. Sat., 9:55 a.m., Wed., 1 & 6:30 p.m. $16-$23.*

COURTESY TURNER ENTERTAINMENT CO

Hunter x Hunter: The Last Mission. After Gon, Killua, Kurapika and Leorio settle into their Heaven's Arena seats to watch the Battle Olympia tournament, a raid by the Shadow ends the festivities. That forces our heroes to mount one last mission to protect the world. *The Frida Cinema, thefridacinema.org. Sat., 7:30 p.m., Sun., 2:30 p.m. $7 & $10.*

The Rocky Horror Picture Show. The pioneering midnight movie starts with the car of sweethearts Brad and Janet (Barry Bostwick and Susan Sarandon) breaking down near the eerie mansion of Dr. Frank-N-Furter (Tim Curry). The transvestite scientist's home also hosts a rocking biker (Meat Loaf), a creepy butler (Richard O'Brien) and assorted freaks, including a hunk of beefcake named "Rocky." Live shadow cast troupe Midnight Insanity performs. *Art Theatre, arttheatrelongbeach.org. Sat., 11:55 p.m. $8-50-$11.50.*

The Absent Stone. Jesse Lerner and Sandra Rozental's 2013 documentary explains how the largest single-stone sculpture in the Americas was forcefully removed from a village in Mexico's Texcoco area in 1964. Lerner participates in a post-screening Q&A. *UCI, (949) 824-6117. Mon., 4 p.m. Free.*

Vindhana. A young nun (Silva Pinal) is about to take her final vows when she visits her widowed uncle (Fernando Rey). Thinking she resembles his late wife, he tries to seduce her before tragedy strikes. The film rolls in Spanish with English subtitles. *UCI, (949) 824-6117. Tues., 7 p.m. Free.*

Raw. A vegetarian college freshman (Garance Marillier) is forced during a hazing ritual to try meat for the first time. That awakens a new desire to munch on human flesh, and fortunately, her campus is loaded with it. *The Frida Cinema, thefridacinema.org. Wed.-Thurs., March 7, 2:30, 5:30 & 8 p.m. $7-$10.*

BlacKkKlansman. Spike Lee's 2018 bio-drama is set in the early 1970s, when a black Colorado Springs police detective (John David Washington) tries to infiltrate the Ku Klux Klan. He enlists his white partner (Adam Driver) to help. *Fullerton Public Library, (714) 738-6327. Wed., 6 p.m. Free.*

***Dokhtari dar šab tanhâ be xâne miravad* (*A Girl Walks Home Alone at Night*).** Inhabitants of the Bad City ghost town are unaware they are being stalked by a lonesome vampire (Sheila Vand). A light dinner and discussion follow the film. *UCI, (949) 824-6117. Wed., 7 p.m. Free.*

Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone. The first movie from the franchise follows Harry from life with his neglectful aunt and uncle to Hogwarts School for Witchcraft and Wizardry. *Regency South Coast Village, (714) 557-5701. Wed., 7:30 p.m. $9.*

Hump! Film Festival. See "Savage Lovers" on page 22. *Art Theatre, humpfilmfest.com. Wed., 8 p.m. $20-$24.49.*

***Un paese quasi perfetto* (*An Almost Perfect Country*).** Massimo Gaudioso's 2018 comedy is about inhabitants of a remote and dying village doing everything it takes to make a new factory succeed. *Regency San Juan Capistrano, (949) 661-3456. Thurs., March 7. Call theater for show time and ticket prices.*

Mantrap. "It Girl" Clara Bow plays Alverna, a lonely young wife who grows tired of living in the sticks with her Canadian husband Joe (Ernest Torrence). When his strapping divorce-lawyer friend Ralph (Percy Marmont) shows up for a vacation from women, Alverna makes her move. Award-winning composer Michael Mortilla accompanies the Silent Movie Night selection on piano. *Muckenthaler Cultural Center; themuck.org. Thurs., March 7, 7:30 p.m. $15-$30.*

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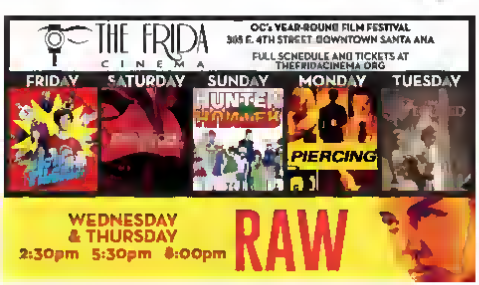

It's a Dark World After All

The Hilbert Museum's 'The Magic and Flair of Mary Blair' shines light on early Disney

BY DAVE BARTON

COURTESY OF THE HILBERT MUSEUM OF CALIFORNIA ART

Considered the Disney Studios' most influential concept artist until she left in the early 1950s, animator/designer/colorist/illustrator Mary Blair worked on a host of the company's early classics, including *Peter Pan*, *Dumbo*, *Cinderella* and *Alice In Wonderland*. Even more famously, she's the person responsible for the exterior and interior designs of the ever-popular Disneyland park attraction *It's a Small World*.

Under Mary Platt's astute, empathetic curation, the Hilbert Museum's "The Magic and Flair of Mary Blair" reveals the artist's concept work as a kind of dark enchantment. Preliminary drawings and paintings created to give other artists an idea of what things should look like—inspiration, but not gospel for the final design—Blair's innovative work is hallucinogenic, full of sharp, flat angles and filled to the brim with the savvy use of eye-candy color.

The artist's work, even after more than 70 years, feels fresh, timeless. Early animated Disney features always had an undercurrent of terror and menace, something I had chalked up to the immutability of its fairytale source material. After spending an hour with Blair's work, it's clear that it's not just the source that deserves the credit, but also Blair's artistic advocacy. From *Dumbo*, a circus train on a bridge is something you'd expect to be light, even cheery, but her *Casey Jr.* is a jet-black silhouette on a bridge arched over a vast, dark expanse of water, the background a fiery, hellish, sunset. The shadows in *The Circus* continue the hell theme, with Blair giving the large advertising banners and the interior-lit tents a sinister, dangerous touch, their oppressive anonymity telling us that there are literally dark forces behind the otherwise-well-lit façade.

You Can Fly, from *Peter Pan*, features the titular lead with Mary, John and Michael standing on a cloud and looking down. It's an enchanted moment, the characters easily recognizable, considering Blair's tendency toward abstract representation. Hook's shimmering red coat in *Peter Pan Battles Captain Hook* contrasts sharply with his ghastly gray pallor, as he hugs a ship's mast up in the air while Peter threatens to shank him with a dagger. The sky surrounding them is in various dreamy shades of green, suggesting the sea, nausea, jealousy. There's even more glowing green in the skies of *The Mermaids of Neverland Cove*, with the lost boy amid three multihued sirens Blair paints them as sleeping cherubs instead of what would eventually be the curvy clamshell-brassiere sex bombs they are in the feature.

There are only two images from the concept paintings for *Cinderella*. In one, the heroine is dashing out of the palace (in shades of blue and pink), her glass slipper left on the steps behind her as she attempts to beat the clock before it turns midnight. In the other, the Fairy Godmother is dressed in a powerful monarchical purple, instead of the Virgin Mary pastel blue we know, the eddying glitter of her spells transforming a pumpkin into an orange carriage of undulating green vines, all under a full lavender moon.

The avant-garde psychedelia of Blair's *Alice In Wonderland* fully captures Lewis Carroll's anarchy while predating the '60s drug culture. Closest in spirit to what eventually ended up on screen, Blair's work is never more obviously ahead of its time. In the six images exhibited, we revisit Alice in court, the aggressively buffoonish Queen of Hearts towering above, threatening her with decapitation, the picture painted in bright harlequinade colors; the caterpillar sits on his mushroom, wrapped in the smoke of his hookah, a semicircular wall of pink and blue flowers protecting him from the outside world, more circles, with teapot steam from the Mad Tea Party enfolding the Mad Hatter and March Hare on either side of Alice, as a bevy of flat, two-dimensional presents are scattered about, waiting to be opened. In another, Alice, arms akimbo, fiercely stares down a forest of goggle-eyed creatures in Tulgey Wood. Alice stumbles upon the White Rabbit's cottage in a final piece, its thatch of bright-yellow roof echoing the gold of Alice's hair.

With the four classics on display, it's clear the darkness inherent in each of the stories was something embraced by Blair, who boldly brought it to the forefront. Though the studio was clearly inspired by her concepts, the exhibit is a valuable reminder it generally copped out, despite the visual power of her work. Not that this was unexpected. Rounding off her edges and dumbing down her distinctive style is also how the studio bastardized the fairy tales into audience-friendly pablum. Visionary talent often gets soft-peddled because people don't want a challenge. (*Alice*, for example, one that most closely bews to Blair's concepts, flopped at the box office on its first release.) As influential as she was, she wasn't the final word; her work could still be sabotaged under the directorial control of men less gifted than she. Visit her work at the Hilbert and mourn *what could have been*.

"THE MAGIC AND FLAIR OF MARY BLAIR"
at the Hilbert Museum of California Art, 167 N. Atchison St., Orange, (714) 516-5880, www.hilbertmuseum.com. Open Tues.-Sat., 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Through Oct. 19. Free.

ARTSOVERLOAD

» AIMEE MURILLO

March 1-7

COSTUME FIGURE DRAWING WORKSHOP. Participants of all skill levels are invited to draw the models without instruction. Bring your own materials; horses and easels provided. Fri., 6 p.m. Through May 17. Free, but donations accepted. Fullerton College, Building 1000, Room 1020, 321 E. Chapman Ave., Fullerton. easicostumefiguredrawing.blogspot.com.

CABARET. This 1998 Broadway revival version of the iconic musical concerns a romance between a nightclub singer and an American writer during the slow rise of the Third Reich in 1930s Berlin. Fri.-Sat., 8 p.m., Sun., 2 & 5 p.m. Through March 23. $20-$25. Stage Door Repertory Theatre, 1645 N. Armando St., Anaheim Hills, (714) 630-7378, stagedoorrep.org.

DISASTER! THE MUSICAL. A send-up of '70s disaster films featuring famous songs from that era. Thurs.-Fri., 8 p.m., Sat., 2 & 8 p.m., Sun., 2 p.m. Through March 24. $26-$45. One More Productions, 12852 Main St., Garden Grove. (714) 741-9950. www.onemoreproductions.com.

LIFE COULD BE A DREAM. A musical spectacular about an up-and-coming doo-wop group vying for the grand prize in a radio contest. Thurs.-Sat., 8 p.m., Sun., 2 p.m. Through March 10. $47-$49. International City Theatre, 330 E. Seaside Way, Long Beach. (562) 436-4610; ictlongbeach.org.

HAPPY FLOWYOGA GRAND OPENING. Experience a full day of free yoga classes, vendors, music and prizes. Sun., 8 a.m. Free. Happy Flow Yoga Studio, 229 E. Commonwealth Ave., Fullerton. (714) 414-3591; www.happyflowyogastudio.com.

LONG BEACH SKATE PICNIC. A hands-on class for prospective skaters of all ages and skill levels, taught by professionals from Waltz Skateboards. Sun., noon. Free. Bixby Park, 130 Cherry Ave., Long Beach. www.instagram.com/waltz_skateboarding.

"WOMEN IN ART GROUP EXHIBITION". Selected from more than 200 local, national and international submissions, this group show features exclusively women painters, illustrators and mixed-media artists. Open Sun.-Wed., 10:30 a.m.-6 p.m., Thurs.-Sat., 11 a.m.-8 p.m. Through March 28. Free. Las Lagunas Gallery, 577 S. Coast Hwy., Ste. A-1, Laguna Beach, (949) 567-1803; www.laslagunasgallery.com.

"WAVE PAINTINGS". Saline Mendoza presents a series of abstract, geometric paintings of ocean waves, inspired by repetition and mental health. Mon.-Sat., 8 a.m.-6 p.m., Sun., 9 a.m.-7 p.m. Through March 30. Free. 1888 Center, 115 N. Orange St., Orange. (657) 282-0483. heritagefuture.org/1888-center.

Banned Together

Fullerton exiles Fourth In Line reunite to rage once more

BY NATE JACKSON

PAUL LUNA

The stupidest thing the city of Fullerton ever did was welcome a bunch of youngsters from La Habra to play some punk rock. In 2000, bassist Eric Bootow and his Fourth In Line band mates were invited to perform at a city-sponsored dance at Independence Park for all the high schools in the Fullerton Joint Union High School District. On the surface, it sounded like a pretty typical occurrence: A band of high-school seniors strumming a few tunes for the kids between sets from a DJ spinning hits by Eminem, 3 Doors Down and *NSYNC.

However, within minutes of setting up their gear in the venue's spacious auditorium, it was clear Bootow's band and the uninvited hardcore fanbase that followed them brought a slightly different energy to the party—the kind that turns a high-school dance into a full-scale riot. "We started playing, and the crowd started going crazy," Bootow recalls. "One of our friends was up front, singing along, and security pushes him. Next thing I know, our friend is punching the security guard, [and then] the security guards are beating up our friends."

The band added to the chaos by jumping offstage to join the melee. "I almost kicked this dude in the face, and then I see he has a Fullerton PD badge," Bootow says. "Our friend was filming it, and a security guard tackles him and starts ripping the film out of the camera. Some friends got maced in the bathroom, another friend's girlfriend got her teeth knocked out."

Shockingly, the band wasn't kicked out of the dance on the spot for sparking the riot. The organizers instead told them to finish their set after everything was broken up — and *then* they kicked them out. They were subsequently banned from performing in Fullerton ever again—until now.

Eighteen years after their breakup, one of OC's craziest, most beloved local punk bands is making a comeback.

To be fair, gray hairs, fatherhood and overall maturity have diluted some of the caustic teenage rage that bonded Fourth In Line together when they started in January 1998. Amidst a wild west era in the OC punk scene, Bootow and his junior-high friends Chris Griffith and Eric Lopez (plus a handful of other members who've come and gone over the years) were a streak of lightning that burned bright until they burned out. "We were 20-years-olds talking about everyday life, frustration, typical changes you go through at that age," Griffith says.

During their two years together, Fourth In Line headlined shows at venues such as Chain Reaction in Anaheim and the Showcase Theater in Corona, and they shared stages with every big OC band of the day—Avenged Sevenfold, Thrice, Straight Faced, even Linkin Park. "We didn't even know who the fuck they were," Bootow says of the former alt-rock band that went on to become FM-radio giants. "It was in Brea at a show called Jam at the Dam, [Linkin Park] literally just showed up and played."

Known for their crazy live shows and a mix of skate punk, hardcore and metal energy akin to their mutual favorite band Sepultura, Fourth In Line occupied their own niche in the punk scene that at the time felt wide open to anyone who wanted to add something new. "It was a mix of so much stuff: all the New York stuff; the stuff we were listening to like Strife, Ignite [and] Straight Faced, and the emo stuff like Far Side and At the Drive In and Boy Sets Fire that were kind of in the middle," Bootow says. "I thought the scene at the time was cool because you'd see a band like Strife [at a show] with the Aquabats."

After releasing their first and only album, *Open Wide*, in 2000, the band wrote lots of unrecorded songs and created a legacy that stuck around for almost two decades. The band didn't end so much as they faded away, with members having less time to practice. Bootow and his brother/band mate Troy were also dealing with the failing health of their cancer-stricken mother (she later passed away). One of the band's last songs, "Search Light," was inspired by Bootow and his brothers talking to Griffith about their struggle to cope with watching their mother slip away before their eyes.

After Fourth In Line fizzled, the Bootow brothers went on to join other local bands and form their own outfits (Sederra for Eric, and Death Hymn Number 9 for Troy), while Griffith and drummer Lopez kept relatively low profiles outside of live music.

"Everyone I hang around with, minus the band, have never seen me play before. No one knows," Lopez says. "My group of friends, no one has seen me do this."

Griffith concurs with a sly grin that belies his role as the band's loud, relentless lead singer. "My wife has no clue," he says. "I tried to explain it to her."

It wasn't until being together at the funeral of mutual friend Greg Henry (who jammed with them at their eighth-grade talent show) that the guys began talking about playing again. "Eric and I were talking and said we should jam for fun and see where it goes," Bootow remembers. "I thought it was gonna be an immediate no — and Chris was like, 'Fuck yeah!' and everyone was like, 'Let's do it.'"

The majority of the original members, now including onetime fan-turned-lead guitarist Jimmy Joyce, began practicing in May without any intention of announcing the band's return until they felt ready to play a show. In the meantime, they started writing new songs and took *Open Wide* to get mastered by celebrity OC punk producer Paul Miner, formerly of Death By Stereo. The band also pressed a limited number of custom vinyl records to sell at upcoming shows.

Since Fourth In Line officially announced they had reunited, they have received an overwhelming amount of support from loyal fans, some of whom no longer live in OC but are flying in from other states to see the group's first gig in 18 years at Slidebar Rock-N-Roll Kitchen. Apparently, Fullerton is letting bygones be bygones. After all, the band's show couldn't be as gnarly as it once was, ... could it?

"I'm a little worried it's gonna go nuts," Griffith says. "There're definitely people who've been waiting for this to happen for a long time."

Assuming the fans are also hitting their early 40s, maybe there's a chance they can avoid a riot this time. If not, some punker parents are probably gonna have a lot of explaining to do to their kids the next morning. For Bootow, the only thing more powerful than the teenage angst that bonded them together is the joy of reliving it.

"These are the guys I literally learned to play music with," Bootow says. "So the fact we get to do it again almost 20 years later is pretty cool."

NJACKSON@OCWEEKLY.COM

FOURTH IN LINE

perform with Chaser, Echavox and Courage You Bastards at Slidebar Rock-N-Roll Kitchen, 122 E. Commonwealth Ave., Fullerton, (714) 871-2233, www.slidebarfullerton.com. Sat., 8 p.m. Free. 21+.

COURTESY OF NO TIME RECORDS

Time Flies

Fullerton DIY label No Time moves OC punk forward

BY STEVE DONOFRIO

From legendary bands such as Adolescents and F-Minus to venues such as Koo's Cafe and the Cuckoo's Nest, Orange County has a pretty rich punk rock history. While a lot of the classic bands don't play anymore and many landmark venues have long since closed their doors, No Time Records is proof that OC punk rock is not just a thing of the past. Started by two friends, the Fullerton-based label is now a collective for folk-punk, crack rocksteady, hardcore and power-violence artists from not just the county, but also around the world.

When Tommy Smith and Fern Aguilar established No Time, it was simply to release their own music, as they performed with the Insomniac Collective and High Tension, respectively. Aguilar came up with the name and logo, while Smith picked up some tips from other label owners (such as Pacific Nature's Alyx Poska). "Our first official release was in July 2014," Smith recalls. "It was a split single between both of our bands."

Soon, the label evolved into something much bigger. With Aguilar focusing on booking local shows and Smith working on distribution and cassette manufacturing, No Time was able to gain traction both locally and in the greater online punk scene. "I had a huge group of friends in the internet skacore/crack rocksteady/hardcore scene," Smith says. "So I just started slowly releasing all of my close friends' stuff, and then that kinda got out there. Then I started getting more comfortable approaching bands that I wasn't too familiar with."

This straightforward networking method proved to be the key to No Time's success, and it has since released music from bands across the country, including the Abolitionist (Oregon), the Eradicator (Illinois) and the Stupid Stupid Henchmen (New York). "Originally, we were just gonna do digital releases, and then we decided to get serious and start doing physical releases," Smith says. "It just sort of grew from there."

In 2016, No Time released the Night Gaunts/Days N' Daze split album on 10-inch vinyl, which remains the label's most commercially successful. Smith views this as a defining moment. "That was a huge thing for us, so early on," he says. "Days N' Daze is one of the biggest folk-punk bands in the world. That definitely kinda put us out there. We were like, 'Oh, we're actually a label.'"

Smith and Aguilar work hard to maintain the label's momentum. Last year, No Time rereleased U.K. band the Infested's seminal hardcore/crack rocksteady album, *Myths, Lies & Hypocrites*, on cassette. While the label counted only four physical releases in 2014, there were more than 50 in 2018—a prolific level of output for any record label, especially a small independent one in Orange County.

And in celebration of its fifth anniversary, the label is hosting No Time for Fun Fest at Programme Skate & Sound. The three-day event in July will include performances by Fissure, the Eradicator, Ursula, Corrupt Vision, Fun Abuse and more. "Each night is gonna be reflective of a different genre that we put out," Smith explains. "So there's gonna be a crack rocksteady night, a punk/pop-punk night and a hardcore/powerviolence night."

None of the label's success has come easy, but Smith believes it's worth it. "No Time is definitely a passion project," Smith says. "Generally, it's me loaning a lot of my own money to the label. I've never paid myself for the work or time I've put into it."

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Friday

KOLARS; ALEX LILLY, TOKYO LUCKY HOLE 8 p.m., $10. 21+. The Wayfarer, 843 W. 19th St., Costa Mesa. (949) 764-0039; www.wayfarercm.com.

99 SLIMES 5 p.m., $20. all ages. Garden Amp (The Locker Room). 12762 Main St., Garden Grove, (949) 415-8544. gardenamp.com

SAVES THE DAY, REMO DRIVE, MIGHTY 8 p.m., $22. all ages. The Observatory, 3503 S. Harbor Blvd., Santa Ana. (714) 957-0600; www.observatoryoc.com.

WHICH ONE'S PINK? 8 p.m., $23. all ages. City National Grove of Anaheim, 2200 E. Katella Ave., Anaheim, (714) 712-2700; www.citynationalgroveofanaheim.com.

Saturday

BOOGALOO ASSASSINS, ETHIO CALI 8 p.m., $13-$15. 21+. Alex's Bar, 2913 E. Anaheim St., Long Beach. (562) 434-8292, www.alexsbar.com.

THE CHILLS, COTILLON, VENETIAN BLINDS 8 p.m. $20-$25. 21+. The Wayfarer, 843 W. 19th St., Costa Mesa. (949) 764-0039; www.wayfarercm.com.

OM, EMEL MATHLOUTHI 8 p.m., $20. all ages. The Observatory, 3503 S. Harbor Blvd., Santa Ana. (714) 957-0600; www.observatoryoc.com.

Sunday

ANORES, DEAD POET'S SOCIETY, ANEMORIA 8 p.m. free, 21+. The Slidebar Rock N Roll Kitchen, 122 E. Commonwealth Ave., Fullerton, (714) 871-7469; www.slidebarfullerton.com.

DEAD MEADOW, HIGHLANDS, BAAST 7 p.m., $15. 21+. The Wayfarer, 843 W. 19th St., Costa Mesa. (949) 764-0039; www.wayfarercm.com.

EYEHATEGOD, PHORIA, TRAPPIST, GRAF ORLOCK, GALENA 2 p.m., $17-$20. 21+. Alex's Bar, 2913 E. Anaheim St., Long Beach, (562) 434-8292, www.alexsbar.com.

GREER, THE GRINNS, SKIN MAG, CARPOOL TUNNEL 7:30 p.m. $16, all ages. The Constellation Room, 3503 S. Harbor Blvd., Santa Ana. (714) 957-0600; www.observatoryoc.com.

JUNIOR BROWN, HOT ROD TRIO 7 p.m., $22. all ages. Coach House, 33157 Camino Capistrano, San Juan Capistrano, (949) 496-8930; thecoachhouse.com.

POWERSOLO 8 p.m. $10, 21+. Alex's Bar, 2913 E. Anaheim St., Long Beach. (562) 434-8292; www.alexsbar.com.

Monday

MOON GRASS MOUNTAIN; BLANCO NINO; FOA, ROYAL LAUNDRY 8 p.m., free. 21+. The Wayfarer, 843 W. 19th St., Costa Mesa, (949) 764-0039; www.wayfarercm.com.

SINGLE MOTHERS 9 p.m., $15, all ages. The Constellation Room, 3503 S. Harbor Blvd., Santa Ana. (714) 957-0600. www.observatoryoc.com.

Tuesday

SANO OF HORSES, SHE RETURNS FROM WAR. 8 p.m., $35, all ages. The Observatory, 3503 S. Harbor Blvd., Santa Ana, (714) 957-0600; www.observatoryoc.com.

POWERSOLO 9 p.m. $5-$8. 21+. The Slidebar Rock N Roll Kitchen, 122 E. Commonwealth Ave., Fullerton, (714) 871-7469. www.slidebarfullerton.com.

Wednesday

BIG WILD, ROROTAKI, MILO MINOS 8 p.m., $25 all ages. The Observatory, 3503 S. Harbor Blvd., Santa Ana. (714) 957-0600; www.observatoryoc.com

SOFT KILL, IN MIRRORS 9 p.m., $10. 21+. La Santa Modern Cantina, 220 E. Third St., Santa Ana, (657) 231-6005.

WARREN BEATTY; TAKERS, LEAVERS, GOLDEN RAM 8 p.m. $5. 21+. The Wayfarer, 843 W. 19th St., Costa Mesa. (949) 764-0039; www.wayfarercm.com

YNW MELLY 9 p.m. $17.50. all ages. The Constellation Room, 3503 S. Harbor Blvd., Santa Ana. (714) 957-0600; www.observatoryoc.com.

Thursday, March 7

ALIVE & WELL 8 p.m. free. 21+. The Slidebar Rock N Roll Kitchen, 122 E. Commonwealth Ave., Fullerton, (714) 871-7469. www.slidebarfullerton.com.

ASI FUI, MINI TREES, STAY SOUTH 8 p.m. $5. 21+. The Wayfarer, 843 W. 19th St., Costa Mesa. (949) 764-0039; www.wayfarercm.com

G. LOVE & THE SPECIAL SAUCE, RON ARTIS II & THE TRUTH 8 p.m., $30. all ages. Coach House, 33157 Camino Capistrano, San Juan Capistrano. (949) 496-8930. thecoachhouse.com

GOOCH PALMS 8 p.m., $8. 21+. Alex's Bar, 2913 E. Anaheim St., Long Beach, (562) 434-8292, www.alexsbar.com.

JERRY PAPER 9 p.m., $12, 21+. La Santa Modern Cantina, 220 E. Third St., Santa Ana. (657) 231-6005.

SCARS ON BROADWAY 8 p.m., $25. all ages. The Observatory, 3503 S. Harbor Blvd., Santa Ana. (714) 957-0600, www.observatoryoc.com.

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4/14	ALBERT LEE
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4/2R	REVEREND NORTON NEAT
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5/4	BERLIN
5/10	RAUL MALO
5/11	Songs & Stories. An Evening with ART ALEXAKIS of EVERCLEAR, CHRIS COLLINGWOOD of Fountains of Wayne, MAX COLLINS of Eve 6, JOHN WOZNIAK of Marcy Playground

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5/17	An Evening with COWBOY JUNKIES	R/7	ASIA ft. JOHN PAYNE
5/1R	THE 5TH DIMENSION	6/15	OSB (Journey Tribute)
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Outer Limits

I'm a gay guy in my late 40s with a straight sister in her early 50s. She's been married for a bit more than two decades to a guy who always registered as a "possible" on my average-to-good gaydar. But I put "BIL," a.k.a. my brother-in-law, in the "improbable" bucket because he actively wooed my sister, was clearly in love with her, and fathered four boys with her, all of whom are in their late teens now. I'm sure you already saw the plot development coming. It turns out BIL has been far more "probable" than I thought. He has a boyfriend but is still very much closeted and denies he is gay. My sister has apparently known about this arrangement for four years, but she has kept it a secret for the kids' sake. She recently filed for divorce and told our parents and me what's been going on. Their kids have been informed about the divorce, but not about their father's boyfriend.

BIL needs to gay-man-up and admit the truth to himself and the rest of his family and start the healing process. That's obvious. Unfortunately, there's no way I can talk him into it (we're not close), and my sister is left holding this terrible secret while her bewildered kids watch their parents' marriage crumble with no clue as to why. I think the kids deserve the truth and that neither my sister nor the kids can start to heal until that happens. If BIL won't do the right thing, my sister is going to have to tell them the truth. What can I do to help her with this? She's awfully fragile right now, and I don't want to pressure her, and I can't tell the kids without causing a big stink. But damn it, Dan, someone needs to start speaking some truth in that house.

Dishonest Gay Brother-In-Law

Secret second families—and a secret boyfriend of four years counts—aren't secrets that keep. So your nephews are gonna find out about dad's boyfriend sooner or later, DGBIL, and sooner is definitely better. Because in the absence of the actual reason as to why their parents are splitting up—in the absence of the truth—they're likely to come up with alternate explanations that are far worse. And when they inevitably discover the real reason, your nephews' anger at having been lied to or left in the dark will reopen the wounds.

Backing way the hell up. Seeing as BIL actively wooed and "was clearly in love with" your sister, and seeing as he successfully scrambled his DNA together with hers four times and remained married to her for two decades, DGBIL, I don't think BIL is a closeted gay man. My money's on closeted bisexual man.

I shall now say something that will delight my bisexual readers: I'm sure you'd like to live in a world where everyone is out, DGBIL, or, even better, a world where no one ever had to be in. But in the world we live in now, bisexuals are far less likely to be out than gays and lesbians. DGBIL, and the belief that a guy is either gay or straight keeps many bisexual guys closeted. Because if a bisexual guy who's married to a woman knows he's going to be seen as gay if he tells the truth—if no one will ever believe he loved his wife or wanted all those kids—he's unlikely to ever come out. So you can't fault BIL for not being out, DGBIL, when it's attitudes like yours that keep bi guys closeted in the first place.

I shall now say something that will piss off my bisexual readers: A family-minded bi guy can have almost everything he wants—spouse, house, kids—without ever having to come out *so long as that bi guy winds up with an opposite-sex partner.* Coming out is a difficult conversation, and it's one many bi people choose to avoid. And who can blame them? I wasn't thrilled by the idea of telling my mom I put dicks in my mouth, but it was a conversation I couldn't avoid. Faced with the choice between telling my mother the truth and possibly being rejected by her and thereby losing her or cutting her out of my life in order to keep my secret and definitely losing her, I chose to tell her the truth. If I'd been, say, your average hetero-romantic bisexual man instead of a huge homo—if I enjoyed sex with men and women but only fell in love with women—I could've avoided coming out to her and very well might have.

Back to your nephews. DGBIL. They should be told the truth, but you shouldn't be the one to tell them. Their parents should. Sit down with your sister and make the argument I did above. Yes, your kids are upset about the divorce and it will add to their upset to learn their father is in a relationship with a man. But they're going to be angry about being lied to when they inevitably find out. And if she's keeping this secret solely at BIL's request, well, he can't ask that of her if doing so will damage her relationship with her kids. I don't think she should immediately out BIL, but she can and should let him know that she will have to tell the children if he doesn't. You should have a conversation with BIL. Open it by telling him that life is long, marriages are complicated and that you know he loved your sister. But to stick the dismount here: To end his marriage without destroying his relationship with his kids, he can't hide from them. If he doesn't want to tell his boys about his boyfriend because he fears he *might* lose them, DGBIL, then he'll have to cut his kids out of his life—and that means losing them for sure. And then butt the fuck out.

I'm a 24-year-old lesbian, and I've been dating my girlfriend for three years now. She's incredible, but she isn't completely out of the closet yet. I've been out since 2015. She's only come out to a couple of her really close friends. I understand that everyone is different and it takes some people longer than others, but I can't help the fact that it hurts my feelings. I don't express this to her because I don't want to be the reason she does something she's not ready to. But at the same time, it's killing me and she doesn't even know it. We are compatible in every way possible: sexually, emotionally and spiritually. But I can't help but feel she's ashamed of me. I know that sounds selfish, but I want someone who will scream my name from the rooftop. I bring her around all my friends, family and co-workers. She's fully a part of my life, and I feel like I'm never going to be fully a part of hers. What do I do? Set a time limit? She makes me so fucking happy, but I'm starting to resent her for this and I don't want to feel that way. Your thoughts, please!

Being A Secret Hurts Every Day

Two thoughts.

1. Your girlfriend is keeping a secret from her family and friends, BASHED, and she has to hide you to protect that secret. You're keeping a secret from your girlfriend. Being hidden, being treated like her dirtiest secret, is making you miserable. Tell her how you feel about being hidden—because she needs to know being hidden is making you miserable.

2. "Don't date closet cases" is one of my rules for out folks, BASHED, but there are exceptions to every rule. If an out person meets someone on their way out or someone who, for good reasons, can't be out this minute (they're dependent on bigoted parents) or possibly ever (they live in a part of the world where it's too dangerous to be out), an out person can date a closeted person. But dating someone who can be out and isn't and has no plans to come out? They're not dating you; they're dragging you back into the closet. Just say no.

On the Lovecast *(savagelovecast.com), Dan chats with Johann Hari about the depression epidemic. Contact Dan via mail@savagelove.net, follow him on Twitter @FakeDanSavage, and visit ITMFA.org.*

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UPCOMING SEX EDUCATION EVENTS

THE ULTIMATE GUIDE TO FEMALE PLEASURE
THURS. FEB. 28TH @ 7:15PM

This workshop is perfect for women and couples who want to find new ways to pleasure her! We will discuss how to receive more pleasure and have more frequent and more powerful orgasms to enhance your sex life and your relationship. This class includes information on the female sexual response cycle as well as female psychology that often gets in her way. $15 per person or $25 per couple when prepaid by 2/27/19. If space is available, $25 per person on the day of the workshop.

BUTT BASICS: PLEASURABLE ANAL PLAY FOR MEN & WOMEN
THURS. MARCH 14TH @ 7:15PM

In this workshop we will focus on anal play for both men & women. Anal play can be extremely pleasurable when done right, but most couples who try anal in the bedroom do not know the necessary tips and techniques to make it feel good, and therefore experience pain instead of pleasure. We will cover anal sex as well as anal toys and prostate play.
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Toke of the Week

» JEFFERSON VANBILLIARD

Puffy Delivery

COURTESY OF COOKIES

I have a confession. For the past month, I haven't experienced anything, cannabis-wise, that has grabbed my attention. It's not Mary's fault; I just feel as if I may have gotten desensitized.

That is, until I toured Orange County's newest delivery service. Puffy promises same-day delivery on orders between 10 a.m.–10 p.m. It ships directly to your door in discreet packaging without costing you an arm and a leg, which means you have more time to send emails, sit in traffic, or take another selfie, all while knowing your buds are safely en route.

Puffy also happens to carry one of my favorite brands. Cookies, which has never failed to get me lifted, was started in the Bay Area by artist/rapper/entrepreneur Berner. The hip-hop star has been slowly building a strong following thanks to his brand's care and quality. And to be honest, every strain tastes great. The Cookies brand is behind the Animal Cookies strain, which has been duplicated more times than we can count, but the original is the undisputed king of flavor and effects.

So ditch the pants, log on to puffydelivery.com, and order up some premium indoor buds.

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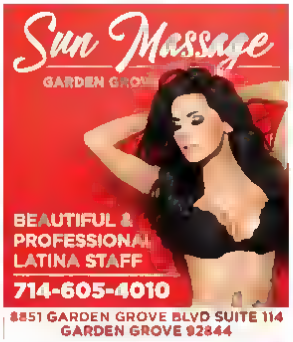
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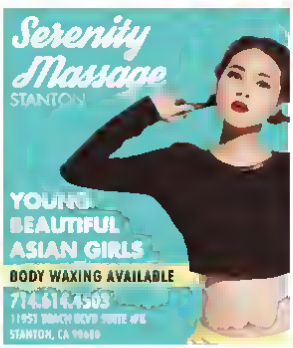
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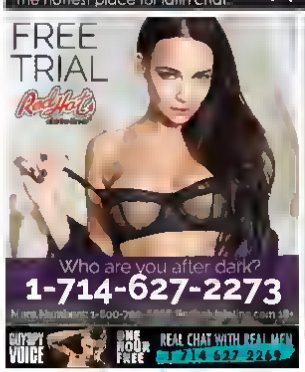
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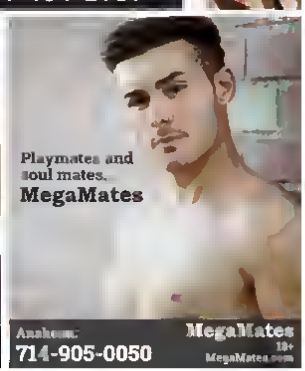
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Thar She Sings

Dana Point Festival of Whales adds the Lyric Opera of OC to its repertoire

BY LISA BLACK

Whale song has had its hooks in the human imagination since 1979, when *National Geographic* bound a 33 1/3 long-playing, flexible disk into each edition, some 10 million in 25 languages, to be played on turntables all over the world. *Songs of the Humpback Whale* launched Save the Whales, a movement still going strong, and its underworldly tunes changed our notions of the vast oceans being silent, as well as unleashed the unfathomable mysteries of sea mammals.

How was this musicality discovered? War. Credit the U.S. Navy's use of underwater microphones meant to track Soviet submarines during the Cold War. The story goes that in 1958, a sonar operator off the coast of Bermuda heard strange sounds in his headset, then saw a whale breach the surface. Ten years later, the underwater recordings were put through a code-breaking device from World War II that put sound into visual form, and that's when a mathematician noticed the whale emanations repeated.

Weirder still, 50 years of study has revealed the same lengthy arias are sung by all Humpback males; if one makes a change, soon all have incorporated it.

Until 2015, it was only the males that were known to make vocal music. But a recent recording off the coast of Hawaii captured rumbling beats nearly inaudible to humans when both males and females were present. So now, who knows?

Year-round, ever more Humpbacks are being spotted on whale-watching trips off Dana Point. But for 48 years, the city's Festival of Whales has celebrated the annual California Gray migration down to Baja to make babies, then back up to Alaska. Scientists believe during their ancient journey, the Headlands provide a navigational landmark.

New this year to the festivities is the Lyric Opera of Orange County's performance *Whale Songs & Other Tails From the Opera*, with six singers and one pianist collaborating on an evening that will fill the Ocean Institute with an aural menagerie from three realms: Leviathans, Beasts of the Land and The Wing.

"All of the animal sounds you hear will be mimicked by human voices; there are no recorded elements or live animals in the concert," says Diana Farrell, artistic director of the opera. "The music was specifically chosen highlighting at least one of three elements: Either the plot or story of the [piece of music] was specifically about a whale, sea monster or animal, such as the aria from *Moby Dick*; or the characters being portrayed are animals, such as our selection from 'Cunning Little Vixen,' where the singers are portraying foxes, or if the singers are emulating animal sounds such as bird calls, seals barking, crickets chirping, whale songs or cats meowing."

Lyric Opera of Orange County was founded by the soprano, who moved here a few years ago from Northeast Ohio, where opera companies abound. She was shocked she'd have to travel to LA or San Diego if she wanted to perform, the full-time working mom just didn't have that much free time. "But opera is my passion," she says. "I just love that stage and telling those stories."

Meanwhile, Farrell was meeting plenty of local singers. "I realized I'm not in a boat alone," she says. "And I thought, 'Why wait around for the opportunity? I'm going to be the one to create the opera, not just for myself, but also for other singers.'"

This is the company's second concert at the Ocean Institute, where they'll perform under the skeleton of an enormous California Gray. *Whale Songs and Other Tails* audaciously opens with John Cage's *Litany for the Whale*, a 1980 work combining silence with a few notes sung in a pattern we listen for just as we would in a recording of a Humpback whale. The visionary midcentury composer would experiment further with opera near the end of his life. The entire company—HyeJung Shin, pianist; sopranos Anastasia Mallarias and Farrell, Maggie Thompson, mezzo soprano; Tyler Thompson, tenor, and baritones Michael O'Halloran and Michael Aaron Segura—will perform the piece.

Though Farrell admits there aren't that many operas starring a whale, the evening will include "Largo al factotum" (a.k.a. "Figaro Figaro Figaro") from *The Barber of Seville*, "which we've tied into the theme thanks to the 1946 Disney film, *The Whale Who Wanted to Sing at the Met*."

The 15-minute animation tells the story of a charming leviathan who can sing in four voices simultaneously (all of them provided by 1940s Hollywood musical legend Nelson Eddy). A publicity stunt by a mustachioed impresario hell-bent on cashing in claims the whale swallowed an opera singer. A seagull brings Willie the Whale a newspaper clipping alerting his friend to his big break. Willie's first moment onscreen finds him singing "Mama's Little Baby Loves Short'nin' Bread," which is a bit cringe-worthy for 21st-century ears, but the albatrosses and seagulls clap along with gusto. As the mammal speeds to his audition, we hear "Figaro Figaro Figaro" underwater and above, while Willie faces off against a fat-cat captain and his hapless sailors bent on cannon-blasting him out of the water. It's a must-see, especially if you're having trouble imagining a whale starring on the Met stage.

Other creatures the singers manifest include the cricket's aria from Jonathan Dove's 2007 *Pinocchio*, "The Fly Duet" from Jacques Offenbach's *Orpheus In the Underworld* and Rossini's meow-filled "Duetto buffo di due gatti," featuring a soprano and a tenor. All performers bring a forest of animals to life in Maurice Ravel's "L'enfant et le sortilege."

DOLPHIN SAFARI

The program is a fitting way to honor the Humpback as well as the Gray during the annual event. Another new venue for celebrating all things cetacean is a free outdoor concert at Baby Beach. Bands will perform on a floating barge, and everyone is free to rush the stage on paddleboards or kayaks.

As always, a parade down Coast Highway kicks off the two weekends of action with an inflated octopus and whale floating high above. Science talks, art expos, antique-boat and classic-car shows, sand sculpting and art-making, a clam chowder cookoff, dinghy races, drone demos, in-harbor cruises, and, best of all, multiple vessels heading out to sea for some up-close encounters with the California Gray whales and their babes.

LBLACK@OCWEEKLY.COM

WHALE SONG S & OTHER TAILS FROM THE OPERA

at the Ocean Institute, 24200 Dana Point Harbor Dr., Dana Point, festivalofwhales.com. March 9, 6 p.m. $65. For more information on the Festival ofWhales (March 2-3 & 9-10) and its events, visit the website

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